

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

November 24, 2009

TO: Internal File

THRU: April Abate, Lead

FROM: Joe Helfrich, Biologist

RE: Temporary Seed Mix, Savage Services Corporation, Savage Coal Terminal, C0070022, Task ID# 3421

COO 12-16-2009

JCH

SUMMARY:

On November 16, 2009 the Division received an amendment for a temporary seed mix for the topsoil piles at the loadout. The interim seed mix has not been too successful to date. The proposed mix is intended to provide a better cover and erosion control on the topsoil stockpiles. This memo will include a review of that information. A site visit was also conducted on November 23, 2009 to evaluate the presence of vegetative species on the topsoil stockpiles. Four Wing Salt Bush and Winter Fat were noted in the depressions, more abundant and healthier plants were observed on the subsoil pile.

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TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

RECLAMATION PLAN

CONTEMPORANEOUS RECLAMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 785.18, 817.100; R645-301-352, -301-553, -302-280, -302-281, -302-282, -302-283, -302-284.

Analysis:

The proposed seed mix includes Crested Wheatgrass, Western Wheatgrass, Alfalfa and Yellow Sweet Clover. Results of the 11/23/09 site visit and discussions with Pat Collins from Mount Nebo Scientific indicate the following:

Vegetation success although sparse on the stockpiles included Four Wing Salt Bush and Winter Fat.

Alfalfa may not require more moisture than is available naturally to survive. However seeding the stockpiles with this species should be attempted.

Findings:

The information included in the application is adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations with two additions to be made when submitting the final clean copies;

The seed mix should include Four Wing Salt Bush and Winter Fat each broadcast seeded at a rate of 2#'s /acre.

The temporary seed mix should be added to the MRP as a separate table, perhaps 5-2 and the interim mix should remain as 5-1

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The application is recommended for approval.